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Sirhan Signs a Criminal Lawyer

LOS ANGELES, June 19 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan today acquired a prominent criminal attorney to defend him against a charge of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Russell Parsons, an attorney who won a landmark California Supreme Court ruling against use of illegally seized evidence, has agreed to represent Sirhan without fee.

A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "Sirhan Sirhan signed, in my presence, a written retainer agreement retaining Attorney Russell Parsons, a member of the Los Angeles County Court Bar Association, as his counsel." Parsons replaces the Public Defender's Office as defense counsel.

Immediately afterward, Public Defender Richard S. Buckley and Parsons conferred with Sirhan in county jail, where the defendant is held without bail under tight security.

The Jordanian Lawyers' Association has selected four of its members to help defend Sirhan and two Lebanese attorneys also have volunteered their services. Similar plans were reported under way in Iraq and Cairo.

Legal sources here saw the move as a possible attempt to air Arab grievances against Israel in a trial certain to receive world wide attention.

There were indications that Sirhan was pro-Arab and anti-Israel and that Kennedy may have been shot fatally last June 5 at the Ambassador Hotel here because he advocated aiding Israel.